

Peter A. Lentini

Shareholder

PALentini@mdwcg.com

Mount Laurel – 856.414.6000



As a shareholder, Peter practices in the area of general civil litigation, with particular emphasis on product liability and premises liability litigation. With trial experience in both state and federal courts in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Peter has handled hundreds of product liability, motor vehicle, trucking and transportation, and premises claims--many involving death, paralysis, loss of limb, burns, blindness, brain injuries, and other severe and permanent injuries. He also defended fire loss cases for a major manufacturer of computer equipment. Sample product claims have involved hunting tree stands, conveyors, commercial laundry equipment, gas powered cut saw, industrial machinery, electric carts, laptop computers, printers, HVAC systems, sprinkler valves, gym equipment, portable stairs, safety harness, dishwasher, roofing materials and manufactured homes. Additionally, Peter has experience defending organizations and hotel chains in high-exposure cases involving human trafficking and sexual assault allegations, including matters brought under the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPPRA).

Peter has considerable experience in product litigation relating to hunting tree stand accidents. He has worked for various manufacturers, retailers and insurance companies in this industry. In addition to handling these claims directly in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Peter has counseled, handled or overseen the defense of over 200 product claims in states such as Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Additionally, Peter has served as an adjunct professor of pre-trial advocacy for Rutgers School of Law in Camden, New Jersey, and is a member of the Camden County Bar Association.

Practices

- Product Liability
- Trucking & Transportation Liability
- General Liability
- Catastrophic Claims Litigation
- Social Services & Human Services Liability

Education

- Temple University Beasley School of Law (J.D., 1987)
- La Salle University (B.A., *cum laude*, 1984)

Admissions

- New Jersey, 1987
- Pennsylvania, 1987

Honors & Awards

- New Jersey Super Lawyer (2005, 2010)
The Super Lawyers list is issued by Thomson Reuters. A description of the selection methodology can be found [here](#). No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

Associations & Memberships

- Camden County Bar Association

Significant Representative Matters

- Granted summary judgment in gasoline powered saw case involving head injuries resulting in medical expenses of \$500,000, severe scarring, and allegations of permanent injury.
- Granted summary judgment in a construction/roofing accident case involving head injuries resulting in medical expenses of \$400,000, skull disfigurement, and allegations of permanent injury.
- Dismissal in death case that resulted in settlement of \$6 million by co-defendants. Established that client had limited or no role in allegations of negligence related to rail yard accident.
- Identified the misuse of a product as a likely cause of an accident involving the traumatic amputation of two fingers resulting in an \$80,000 settlement of claim despite \$150,000 workers' compensation lien.
- *Blofstein v. Rubenstein, et al.* Civil rights claim against Bucks County District Attorney and Prison Warden, verdict for defendants.
- *Howarth v. Reorganized Church.* Horseback riding accident, 13-year-old plaintiff with brain injury, \$50,000 medical expenses, admission of negligence, settlement demand \$2.6 million, settlement offer \$250,000, total jury verdict of \$77,826.
- *Grumbling v. Loggy Bayou.* Product claim involving fall from hunting tree stand, spinal fractures necessitating four level lumbar spinal fusion, settlement demand \$800,000, verdict for defendant.
- *Leiggi v. Loggy Bayou.* Product claim involving fall from hunting tree stand, disc herniation, fractured arm and ribs, \$250,000 stipulated damages, verdict for defendant.
- *Crisefi v. Oaklyn Board of Education.* Negligent supervision claim against school teachers, sixth grader with wrist fracture/permanent residual claims, verdict for defendants.
- *Torrez v. Super Fresh.* Negligent maintenance of hydraulic pallet jack, knee and ankle surgeries, \$90,000 jury verdict, reversed -- verdict entered for defendant on appeal.
- *Coyne v. Laidlaw.* Motor vehicle accident, cervical spinal disectomy with two level fusion and insertion of Codman plate, liability awarded to plaintiff via summary

judgment before trial, \$300,000 demand after summary judgment, \$75,000 jury verdict.

- *Mazza v. SK Hand Tools*. Product liability claim involving broken ratchet, plaintiff rendered legally blind in tire changing accident. Verdict for defendant.
-

Results

Positive Outcome Obtained in a Motor Vehicle/Wrongful Death Trial

We defended a client in a motor vehicle/wrongful death trial in which the jury awarded a much smaller amount than the plaintiff sought. The decedent was rear-ended on the New Jersey Turnpike while driving 9.9 miles per hour at 3 a.m. He was intoxicated, with a blood alcohol level of .095. His car, which was black with black wheels and black tinted windows, was disabled by the collision and came to rest broadside in the left travel lane. A good Samaritan tow truck driver saw the crash and stopped to render assistance. The decedent, who was uninjured in the initial accident, borrowed the tow truck driver's phone/flashlight and re-entered his car in the left lane. Our client's truck subsequently hit the disabled car while the decedent was in it. The trial judge refused to allow us to introduce evidence relating to the first accident. The decedent's contributory negligence in causing the first accident, which put him in peril, was to have been the focus of our defense. Given the surprisingly small verdict, the client indicated that it will likely accept the result. Before trial, the plaintiff's economist estimated the value of lost services to the family at more than \$6 million. The judge dismissed damages relating to two siblings. The jury awarded significantly reduced damages to the decedent's mother in accordance with the arguments we made.